

REMARKS

The filing of a verified translation of the Japanese priority application perfects applicant's claim to the priority thereof, namely, to a priority date of January 17, 2002, equal to the filing date of that Japanese application.

The LEE et al. reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,750,073 has a reference date equal to its U.S. filing date, namely, September 30, 2002, subsequent to our priority date.

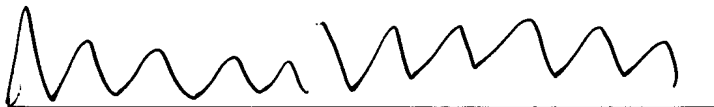
Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of certain of the claims as anticipated by LEE et al.

In view of the present response and the foregoing Remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- verified translation of Japanese priority Application No.
2002-8501 filed January 17, 2002